



Parks & Recreation (VC)

# PARK NEWS

Community Affairs File

Vol II, January 1983

REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we enter 1983, I would like to offer my wish for a New Year full of Joy and prosperity.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

My staff and I wish you a prosperous and happy New Year, and invite you to again make full use of the facilities and programs offered by our department during 1983.

## OPEN HOUSE

You are cordially invited to attend the open house for the year-round Arts and Craft Center which has been added to the Nature Center at Dobbs Park. Mayor Pete Chalos and Superintendent Pat Ralston will co-host the open house on January 9, 1983 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The arts and craft facilities and equipment will be shown and demonstrated. Refreshments will be served.

## FAIRBANKS PARK

Phase II construction has been completed and engineering and design work is progressing on Phase III. New roadways complete with curbs and gutters, parking areas and new rest room facilities were the most noticeable areas completed in Phase II.

Phase III construction calls for extensive walkways, boat ramp parking, further road work and the addition of a fountain in the sunken garden. New ornamental lighting throughout the park and further landscaping.

Bid letting is scheduled for the February-March period.

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#### DOBBS NATURE CENTER CLASSES

8 January - Slide Show - "It's for the Birds"

15 January - Nature Ramble - Hike on the trails

22 January - Slide Show - "Where have all the animals gone"  
(Migration and Hibernation)

29 January - Hike - "Animal Tracks"

#### CROSS COUNTRY SKI RENTAL

The city park and recreation department now has cross country ski equipment for rental and use at Dobbs Park. When weather conditions permit, skiing will be allowed on the trails from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM seven days per week.

Charges for equipment are \$2.00 per hour for children 12 years of age and under, and \$3.00 per hour for adults.

#### SLEDDING AND ICE SKATING

As winter weather approaches, you are reminded that when sufficient snow has fallen to allow winter activities, you are invited and encouraged to use "Snow Hill" at Deming Park for your sledding fun.

As weather conditions permit, ice skating will be allowed at the Dobbs Park Lake. When the ice has frozen to sufficient depth, announcements will be made on local radio and TV stations.

#### ARTS AND CRAFT CLASSES

Beginning January 17, 1983, introductory classes will be offered in the Arts and Craft Center, Dobbs Park. Class registration will be the week of 9-15 January at the center or

WINTER



PROGRAMS

Life Be in it

Park Office, Room 208, City Hall. Fees are payable at time of registration. All introductory classes will be of six weeks duration.

HOBBY CERAMICS I: Wednesday 19 Jan 10:00-12:00 AM  
II: Friday 21 Jan 10:00-12:00 AM) \$15.00

An introduction to slip casting, preparation of greenware, use of underglazes and glazes and kiln firing.

OIL PAINTING I: Monday 17 Jan 10:00-12:00 AM  
II: Friday 21 Jan 6:00- 8:00 PM) \$25.00

An introduction to care and use of brushes, mixing paints and use of different mediums, practical application of painting sky scene, snowscape and trees.

WATER COLOR I: Tuesday 18 Jan 6:00- 8:00 PM  
II: Thursday 20 Jan 6:00- 8:00 PM) \$15.00

An introduction to care and use of brushes, mixing paints, practical application of painting techniques and styles.

POTTERY I: Monday 17 Jan 6:00- 8:00 PM  
II: Wednesday 19 Jan 6:00- 8:00 PM) \$15.00

An introduction to working with clay on the pottery wheel, slab and coil building and combinations of both.

PHOTOGRAPHY I: Monday 17 Jan 6:00- 8:00 PM  
II: Wednesday 19 Jan 6:00- 8:00 PM) \$15.00

An introduction composition, exposure, lighting, developing printing and matting a finish print.

#### CHILDREN CLASSES

WATER COLOR I: Tuesday 18 Jan 4:00- 5:30 PM  
II: Thursday 20 Jan 4:00- 5:30 PM) \$12.00

An introduction to care and use of brushes, mixing paints, and practical application of painting techniques and styles.

You must be 10 years of age or older to participate in the children classes.

## WHAT'S COMING?

- Feb. 5th Winter Carnival "A day in the Park"
- Feb. 12th House of Health Biathlon - 5 mile run and 1 mile cross country ski
- Feb. 21st VCPD Maple Syrup Camp - Prairie Creek Park
- Feb. 26-27 Parke County Maple Fair, Rockville, In

## WHAT'S A BILLION?

We're all accustomed in this inflated age to reading about millions and billions. But do you really appreciate the difference? Try this one for size: If you go shopping for 40 hours a week, spending \$1,000 an hour, it would take you 25 weeks to spend \$1 million.

If you followed the same schedule, spending a billion dollars would take 481 years!



### INDIANA STATE PARK GETAWAY

McCormicks Creek - 812-829-4881

Bridge Players Weekend January 14-15-16

Birdwatchers Weekend January 28-29-30





# PARK NEWS

Vol II, February 1983

Phone 232-2727

## WINTER CARNIVAL - A DAY IN THE PARK

The Park and Recreation Department will again sponsor the Winter Carnival - A Day in the Park, at Deming Park on February 5th.

Festivities get under way at 9:00 AM with open/free style sledding on "Snow Hill" you are invited to bring your favorite snow sliding device and enjoy a day in the park. Throughout the day a snowman building contest will be held, with judging at 3:00 PM. Individual or group entries are permitted.

A 12 team single elimination snowball (softball) tournament will begin at 10:00 AM and continue until a champion is crowned. Teams will be composed of both men and women and a 16" softball will be used.

A cross country ski demonstration will be held at 10:00 AM in the Fort area, by Laura Mason. A one mile cross country ski race will follow at 11:00 AM. At 11:30 AM tube races will be held on "Snow Hill."

There will be a break in activities from 12:30 to 1:30 for lunch. Refreshments will be available in the Fort at a nominal cost.

At 1:30 activities will resume with a two man team, cross cut saw contest, in the Fort area. Snurfboard races will be held on "Snow Hill."

Snowman building contest winner will be announced at 3:00, with awards presented.

In the event there is no snow, all activities except the softball tournament will be cancelled.

## PARK NEWS

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a break today®



Available at all McDonalds  
locations in Terre Haute

7th Street-East Wabash-  
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### DOBBS NATURE CLASSES

- 5 February - Bird Feeders Workshop - Make your own.  
Call 877-1095 to register-limit 15
- 12 February - Early Bird Hike - 9:00 AM
- 19 February - Slide Show - "Medicinal Plants"
- 26 February - Bird House Building Workshop  
Call 877-1095 to register-limit 10

### CROSS COUNTRY SKI RENTAL

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## WINTER



## PROGRAMS

### BIATHELON

The Terre Haute Park Department and House of Health are co-sponsoring the first annual Winter Biathlon, at Deming Park on Saturday 12 February at 1:00 PM. Participants will run five miles over a closed course at Deming Park, change from running gear into cross country ski equipment and complete a one mile cross country ski course.

There will be a \$4.00 entry fee for the race. Registration forms are available at the House of Health, 1363 Wabash Avenue and will be accepted until the date of the race. There will be FREE T-Shirts to the first 100 entries, who register prior to 31 January.

Cross Country Ski Equipment may be rented from the Park Department at Dobbs Park Nature Center. Arrangements for equipment should be made in advance of the race. A Fee of \$1.50 will be charged for this race only.

Awards will be made to the two top male and female finishers in each age group. Age group classifications are 1) 16 and Under, 2) 17-25, 3) 26-34, 4) 35-40, and 5) Over 40. Also an overall male and female winner award will be presented.

In the event there is no snow, a five mile run only will be held. Awards will be presented to the winners and others on the same basis.

### ARTS AND CRAFT CLASSES

Next registration period will be the week of 7 March. Call 232-2727 for information.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 5th Winter Carnival "A Day in the Park"
- Feb. 12th House of Health Biathelon - 5 mile run  
and 1 mile cross country ski
- Feb. 21st VCPD Maple Syrup Camp-Prairie Creek Park
- Feb. 26-27 Parke County Maple Fair, Rockville, In

### WHAT'S COMING?

- Mar. 5-6 Parke County Maple Fair, Rockville, In
- Mar. 12th Bass Fishing Institute, ISU
- Mar. 19th Children's Fair, Honey Creek Square (4-C
- Mar. 26th Kite Day - Build one and Fly it!

### SMILE

Sending Children to college educates parents. It teaches them how to do without a lot of things.



INDIANA STATE PARK TOLL FREE INFORMATION LINE  
1-800-622-4931

### INDIANA STATE PARK GETAWAY

McCormicks Creek (Reservations 812-829-4881)

Euchre Players Weekend, February 4-5-6  
Family Fun Weekend, February 11-12-13

Clifty Falls (Reservations 812-265-4135)

Watchery Winter Wonderland, February 18-19-20

# Terre Haute's wish list attracting gifts for city

By SUSAN CRITTENDEN  
Star Special Correspondent

Terre Haute, Ind. — Terre Haute is believed to be the first city in Indiana to use the gift catalog approach and officials here declare it a success.

The catalog, put out last year by the city's parks department, is a wish list describing 50 items needed in the city's parks.

The eight-page catalog was mailed to 1,000 potential donors. It contains a price list for items that range from a \$9.75 pitcher's plate to a "lookout tube tower" for \$6,250.

A second edition will be published in June, said Park Superintendent Patrick R. Ralston. It will expand requests beyond playground, picnic and landscaping items to include pool accessories and educational equipment.

**THE PARKS** department has received several dozen gifts since the catalog was mailed, Ralston said. Local firms have donated park benches, picnic grills, playground equipment, trees and shrubs, and cash for discretionary purchases.

Clubs have joined in, donating a picnic shelter, fish for a fishing rodeo and a new roof.

The department has also received

several gifts that were not listed in the catalog "because we didn't have such expensive donations in mind when we put it together," Ralston said.

These include \$35,000 from the nonprofit Oakley Foundation for a new park adjacent to a firehouse and materials from Western Tar Products Corp. for a shelter at the city's 18-hole Hulman Links Golf Course.

**FIRMS AND** clubs have also begun donating money to support summertime computer classes for youngsters at Dobbs Park, the latest addition to the park department's recreation program. Gifts have enabled the department to purchase 10 home computers and two printers.

"There are so many demands on our funds today, and federal money is decreasing all the time," Ralston said. "Tax dollars won't stretch even to allow proper park maintenance anymore."

Ralston said he got the idea for his catalog from Flint, Mich., where both the parks department and the public school system have used a similar publication.

**SINCE THE** local version came out, he has had telephone inquiries about the catalog from many Indiana cities and from all parts of the

country. Catalog publication costs were paid by a local firm.

In addition to containing a price list for desired items, the catalog lists each of the 21 city parks and identifies its specific needs.

An order form is included, along with information about how checks should be made out and advice that "all gifts are tax deductible."

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## Taking the plunge

# Vigo officials test waterway

Ts JUN 1 1983

By Patricia Krapash  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Several county officials were observed Thursday in — not near — Otter Creek and the Wabash River.

Dressed in blue jeans, T-shirts and gym trunks, they boarded sleek, silver vessels at about 9 a.m. near Markle's Mill Dam and paddled about seven miles down the creek.

Witnesses who saw portions of that leg of the journey included one large snapping turtle, two hawks, and possibly some beavers. (None of the beavers was observed waving from its dam as the queue of seven vessels passed by.)

About a half mile beyond the mouth of the creek, some of the travelers removed large containers from their vessels.

At about 11:30 a.m. one county official was seen lighting a fire.

Several others were seen up thigh-high in Wabash River water, while one brave soul literally took the head-to-toe plunge.

All said officials and other observer-participants were later seen masticating charred frankfurters, potato chips and chocolate cookies. One expressed dismay at the limited selection, meaning none, of malted and hopped alcoholic beverages.

Later, groups (segregated by sex) were seen going into the woods.

The human vessels refueled and liquids appropriately bailed out, the travelers reboarded the silver boats and continued on the last 4½-mile leg of the journey.

With the sun at its apex in the sky, some county officials were seen



**River rats?: Two of seven canoes travel down Otter Creek and the Wabash**

bare-chested. Some limbs, both the kind with bark and the upper and lower human kind, were seen respectably exposed during the river stage of the excursion.

Witnesses included a family of wood ducks, a kingfisher, a wood thrush, several warblers and an unidentified employee seen watching from the Public Service Indiana power plant. Other unidentified humans were seen in two speed boats.

At approximately 1:15 p.m., the travelers were met by two men at a pre-arranged location on the river

bank. The wet vessels were pushed and pulled about 30 feet up the slightly steep embankment near the Elks Club.

Most of the sunburned county officials and participants were seen boarding an old bus.

No official action occurred during the journey or on the bus, but officials were heard to say the outing had gone smoothly and the project seemed an admirable one.

It has been determined the record of this event should also show the

following:

- At one point in the Otter Creek stream, two county officials were seen simultaneously leaning sideways in order to avoid a large tree and execute a medium-sharp turn.

- The record should also reveal that a large "splash" was heard by many. It should be noted, however, this incident constituted only a half-spill, not a full-spill, as the two men involved kept their heads above water and their vessel did not, in fact, completely overturn.

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*Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)* JUN 17 1983 *Community Affairs File*

# Trip may lead to canoe waterway

**By Patricia Krapesh**  
***Tribune-Star Staff Reporter***

Although some folks might take exception to county officials canoeing on a workday, a 12-mile trip made Thursday is one step forward for local residents who want an established canoe waterway in Vigo County.

Keith Ruble, county parks superintendent, asked various county officials — expert canoeists and novices — to participate in a test run

from Markle's Mill Dam on Otter Creek to a Wabash River landing near the Elks Fort Harrison Country Club.

Ruble says a federal grant possibly could be obtained to build launching and landing areas for canoes.

"Otter Creek is probably the cleanest stream in this county," he said. The average water depth in the creek is about two feet and the Wabash is about six feet, although deeper holes exist, he said.

"The avid canoeist may not see

much of a challenge. But you can take a family and it's not dangerous," Ruble said.

Some trash, brush and logs would have to be cleared out for it to be a workable stream, he said.

Ruble said possibly the county could purchase canoes and lease the operation to a private individual for management.

County parks officials would like to hear from local residents who are interested in the canoe route or other improvements, he said.

Two father-son teams participated in yesterday's test-run: County Commissioner James Adams and Eddy Adams, soil conservation specialist, and John "Jack" F. Roetker, health department administrative assistant, and his 12-year-old son, Michael.

Commissioners John A. Scott and Terry J. Brentlinger wielded paddles, along with Carolyn A. Toops, executive director of the Vigo County Taxpayer's Association, and Gerald A. Brett and Phil Kesner, planning department officials.

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# Denial of U.S. grant termed 'shame' by city

TS 6-17-83

**By John Halladay**  
*Tribune-Star Staff Reporter*

"It's a shame really — the quality of the project is going to go right out the window," Patrick Ralston, city park superintendent, said Tuesday after getting official word the National Park Service has rejected a \$560,000 grant application from the city.

The money was to be used to rehabilitate the Deming Park pool into a 50-meter, Olympic-size facility.

The rejection came despite more than 400 letters from the Terre Haute area in support of the project and despite what Ralston personally felt was the high quality of the application. Regional park service officials had sent the application on to Washington with favorable comments, and Sen. Richard G. Lugar,

R-Ind., and Rep. John T. Myers, R-Ind., both tried to get it approved, Ralston said.

"I have asked for a detailed breakdown of where I went wrong in our grant," Ralston said.

Total cost of the project was to be about \$800,000. Now, the project will have to be scaled down by about \$200,000 and spread over two years with money from the city's Redevelopment Department that might have gone for other park projects, Ralston said. He anticipated that plans for the bathhouse, landscaping and parking area would be reduced most.

Ralston said a Park Service official he would not name told him the city's unsuccessful application was rated higher than some other applications that were approved. He agreed with a suggestion during an interview that perhaps those other cities won out because they had more voters in them.

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# New park in northwest part of county may become reality

By Dick Robinson  
*Tribune-Star Staff Reporter*

If county taxpayers would be agreeable, there could be another multi-purpose park in Vigo County within the next few years.

The county park department's board approved Monday a five-year master plan, which includes a new facility in northwest Vigo County. The new park was not high on the list of priorities. It ranked fifth on a list of five items. However, it was included as a project the board wanted to keep on the table for future consideration.

Keith Ruble, parks superintendent, who prepared the master plan, said it was based on a survey of the thinking of many long-time Vigo County residents.

Not only will the plan serve as a guideline for projects in the coming years, it is a must before the department can apply for any future

grants from the government, according to Ruble.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the plan and determined it was well prepared to meet the needs of Vigo County.

The number one item on the priority list was completion of Hawthorne Park. That was followed by renovation work at Fowler Park and then the development of the Fowler wilderness area. The fourth item was work with rural communities on the development of hometown park and playground areas.

A special item on the list was development of the Otter Creek canoe recreation area.

In other action, the board approved a \$70,000 appropriation for an electrical system and roads at Hawthorne Park.

Ruble said the department would seek bids for the work and then request a letter of intent from the

county council to make the funds available. Contractors would supply the materials, and department employees would do the actual work, Ruble said.

Chet Burkeyle, assistant parks superintendent, reviewed for board members the incidents surrounding the Aug. 20 drowning at Fowler. An investigation has determined that everything was handled properly, he said. All the lifeguards on duty that day were qualified and at their proper posts.

An adjuster for the department's insurance carrier is conducting a separate probe. The adjuster reportedly said it appears there is no blame to the department.

Ruble said there was no criticism of the lifeguards or the way they conducted themselves.

The department has received a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources to improve the Hawthorne Park entry, according to Ruble.

# City agrees to build park on First National site

T s OCT 28 1983

City officials have signed an agreement to transform a vacant lot at Sixth Street and Wabash Avenue into a park until the property is sold.

The city entered into the agreement with Terre Haute First National Bank, which has title to the property.

According to the agreement the city will pay up to \$2,000 for planting grass and a few trees and adding a rest area, Mayor P. Pete Chalos, said in making the agreement public Thursday.

The city parks department will maintain the property and will be

reimbursed for up-front expenses and maintenance costs when the property is sold, Chalos said.

"It isn't going to cost the taxpayers anything," bank president Donald E. Smith said.

"I wanted to get the lot filled or at least beautified," Chalos said. "It's certainly not a permanent arrangement" that the lot remain a park.

The bank will continue to pay property tax on the lot, Chalos added.

Beautification efforts are expected to begin before Christmas.

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Parks + Recreation (TH)

# Increased user fees to help parks' budget

Community Affairs File

TS NOV 30 1983

By Joe Baker  
*Tribune-Star Staff Reporter*

City Parks Superintendent Pat Ralston said increased park user fees, approved at a board meeting Tuesday, will pay about half of the department's operating budget that amounted to \$1.2 million for 1983.

Ralston said user fees in 1980 paid about 20 percent of the city parks budget, while state averages amounted to near 60 percent.

Fee increases getting board approval included softball team prices, which go to \$200. Daily green fees at Hulman Links and Rea Park rise to \$8 and \$6, respectively, while weekend fees rise to \$10 and \$7.

In other action, the board adopted a resolution approving the sale of Torner House, 1107 S. Fourth St., former home of the Terre Haute Girls' Club. Ralston said \$200,000 needed for repairs prohibits restoration of the building appraised at between \$80,000 and \$90,000.

Ralston told board members that two undisclosed investors have expressed interest in buying the

property. Proceeds, which by law must be at least 90 percent of appraised value, would go toward erecting a programs building at Dobbs Park.

The board also:

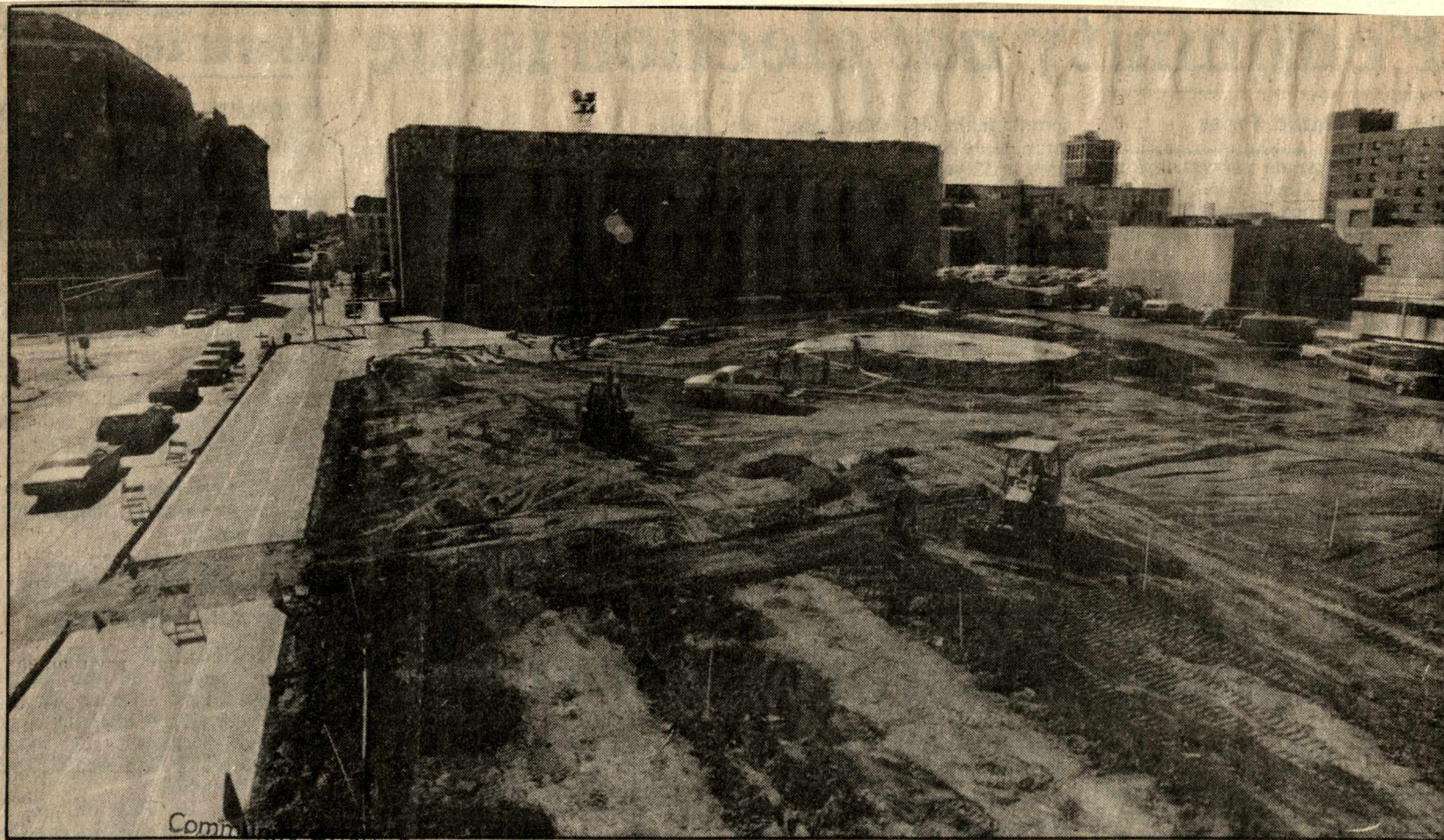
- Adopted a resolution approving Construction Consultants Inc. for overseeing the \$375,000 Hulman Links Clubhouse project. (See story, page A1.)

Shelton Hannig, who owns the consultant firm, has contributed nearly \$15,000 in project design costs, which amounts to about half of the total \$30,000 consulting fee.

- Ralston said Terre Haute First National Bank has offered to pay \$2,000 to sow grass seed in the dusty, vacant lot at Sixth Street and Wabash Avenue, which the city owns. The city and bank had entered into an earlier agreement in which the city would foot maintenance costs until the property was sold at which time the bank would reimburse the city.

- City Golf Director Ray Goddard told board members that completion of a Rea Park Golf Course clubhouse is about two weeks away.





Community Affairs File

Future park T<sup>s</sup> OCT 30 1983

Community Affairs File

Parks &amp; Recreation (TN)

It may not look like it yet, but a new park at Seventh and Cherry streets is well on its way to realization. The park will provide a new entrance to the Indiana State University campus. As this shot from the third floor of the Elks Club shows, new

sidewalks have already gone in and the site is nearly ready for landscaping. The park is part of a university project to rejuvenate Cherry Street, running from Ninth Street west to Third Street.

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